

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 SAM-01 /060 W

----- 061941

O R 251050Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4175

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USINT BAGHDAD

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJECT: IMPACT OF SENATORIAL LETTER ON EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS

1. NEWS OF LETTER SUPPORTING ISRAEL SIGNED BY 76 SENATORS CAME AS MAJOR BLOW TO MANY EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN TOP LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, WHO HAVE SUPPORTED SADAT'S POLICY OF EXPANDING RELATIONS WITH US. TOP LEADERS, SUCH AS PRIMIN SALIM, DEP PRIMIN/FONMIN FAHMY, PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SPEAKER SAYED MAR'I, AND PROMINENT PARLIAMENTARIANS EXPRESSED DISMAY THAT US SENATORS, SOME OF WHOM THEY HAD MET AND FOUND SYMPATHETIC BOTH IN EGYPT AND DURING VISITS TO US, COULD SUBSCRIBE TO SUCH A STATEMENT AT TIME WHEN USG WAS ENGAGED IN ALL IMPORTANT REASSESSMENT OF ITS ME POLICY.

2. EXPLANATIONS BY SENATOR BAKER AND REP

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RIEGLE, WHO WERE CAUGHT IN CROSSFIRE DURING

MAY 24 VISITS IN CAIRO, THAT LETTER WAS NOT TO BE READ AS ANTI-EGYPTIAN BUT ONLY AS REITERATION OF GENERAL US SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL'S SECURITY WERE BRUSHED ASIDE, AS WAS SUGGESTION THAT SIGNIFICANCE OF LETTER IN POLICY TERMS SHOULD NOT BE EXAGGERATED. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, SADAT MADE NO COMMENT OR CRITICISM TO BAKER OR RIEGLE RE LETTER.

3. SOME EGYPTIANS QUESTIONED VALUE OF EFFORT THEY WERE TRYING TO MAKE TO CONVINCE AMERICANS OF RECTITUDE OF THEIR POSITION, SINCE LATTER-- AND PARTICULARLY CONGRESSMEN IRREVOCABLY WERE SO COMMITTED TO SUPPORT OF ISRAELI EXAPNSAIONIST POLICY THAT NO AMOUNT OF ARGUMENT COULD CHANGE THEM. OTHERS, SUCH AS SAYED MAR'I, SAW NEED TO INCREASE EGYPTIAN EFFORTS TO PUT THEIR POINTS ACROSS TO AMERICAN CONGRESS AND PUBLIC BY VARIOUS MEANS. MAR'I IS CONSIDERING EXTENDING INVITATIONS TO PROMINENT SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES, KNOWN FOR SUPPORT OF ISRAELIS, TO VISIT EGYPT AND HEAR EGYPTIAN SIDE OF STORY FIRST-HAND. ACTIVE WOMAN PARLIAMENTARIAN, DR. LEILA TAKLA, WHO JUST RETURNED FROM US TOUR BY PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY GROUP, TOLD CHARGE SHE WAS SENDING CABLES TO EACH OF SENATORIAL SIGNEES PROTESTING THEIR ACTION.

4. CAIRO PRESS MAY 25 ALSO REPORTS THAT PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY WILL DISCUSS THIS DATE ATTEMPT BY 76 SENATORS TO RESTRICT FREEDOM OF PRESIDENT FORD IN HIS UPCOMING SALZBURG MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT. MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO05230
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750184-0093
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750518/aaaaapxn.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IMPACT OF SENATORIAL LETTER ON EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS
TAGS: PFOR, EG, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006